

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

ETHERIDGE, Bob (Democrat)
Representative, 2nd District, North Carolina
Elected 1996 to 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Sampson County, NC - 7 August 1941
Home: Lillington
Marital status: Married (Faye) - 3 children
Religion: Presbyterian
Education: Campbell Univ, BS - 1965
Profession: Small businessman, tobacco farmer
Military: Army, 1965-1967
Political: N.C. House, 1979-87. Won 52% of the vote in 1996 to defeat incumbent Rep David Funderburk (R). Reelected in 2000 with 58% of the vote and in 2002 with 65%.

Rep Etheridge is a moderate Democrat and member of the New Democrat Coalition. Appeals to swing voters. Is a fiscal conservative, voted to balance the federal budget, to offer estate tax relief to family farmers and small businesses. A former state superintendent of public schools and a part-time tobacco farmer, agrees with those in his party who advocate an active role for the federal government in improving local schools. Jealously guards the interests of the tobacco growers in his district, often putting him at odds with fellow Democrats. Cosponsored legislation providing for a Medicare subvention demonstration project for eligible military retirees, requiring separate gender military basic training, and calling for the development and deployment of a US theater missile defense system.

In the 106th Congress, voted for legislation granting China permanent normal trade status, contending that it would provide the North Carolina economy with expanded markets. In the 107th Congress, said the US must act to eradicate terrorism. Said he was impressed by the quality of US military personnel and their willingness to get into the fight in Afghanistan. Hosted an August 2002 small business procurement seminar in his district to benefit firms seeking business with the military.

At the beginning of the 108th Congress took over responsibility for Pope AFB due to redistricting. Appointed as a "senior whip" by new Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD). Came off the Science Committee and was appointed to the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Additional Background: Parts of Ft Bragg, the home of the Army's Special Operations Command, the 82nd Airborne Division, and the 18th Airborne Corps, are in his district. Etheridge was stationed at Ft Bragg during the Vietnam war. Member of the Army Caucus and the Military Veterans Caucus
AF Bases: Pope AFB

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